

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 4 and 19 are currently being canceled.

Claims 5, 8 and 11 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-18 and 20 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 13-, 15-18 and 20 are allowed, as well as the indication that claims 5-13 would be allowed if amended to place those claims in independent form. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 5, 8 and 11 have each been amended to place those claims in independent form to include the features of their respect base claim and any intervening claims. Please note that "for compression" was changed to "for compressing", for grammatical reasons. Thus, claims 5-13 are now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections:

In the Office Action, claims 4 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,519,052 to Oneda et al. Due to the cancellation of claims 4 and 19, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion:

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action that have not been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date November 3, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6162
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Phillip J. Articola

Pavan K. Agarwal
Registration No. 40,888

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819